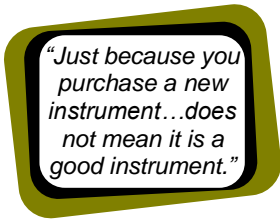


Parents – Getting Started

Choose your instrument carefully. What you find for a great price at one place may cost you more at the repair shop. Be aware of what you buy. If you have a question, ask if you can take the instrument to a local repair technician and get them to run a quick play test. If there is something wrong, they will know in moments and can give you an estimate of repair prices.

If they will not let you take the instrument, get all the information and let your director know where the instrument is so they can advise or assist in the purchase. Be sure to check with a local music dealer to confirm whether or not you will be able to have your instrument repaired by qualified personnel. Just because you purchase a “new” instrument from a store or off the internet, does not mean it is a good instrument. Many places WILL NOT or, simply CAN NOT perform repairs unless they are quality instruments.

To help protect your investment and avoid accidental damage once you buy or rent an instrument, resist the temptation to let your child get it out and play it until after their first lessons. These lessons focus on instrument care, maintenance and handling, proper assembly, sound production, and breathing techniques. You do not give them the keys to the car before they actually pass the test, do you?



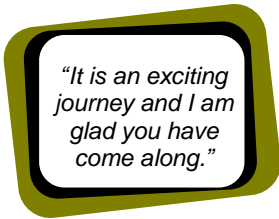
“Just because you purchase a new instrument...does not mean it is a good instrument.”



Students – Getting Started

Welcome to a great adventure. Over the next several years, as teachers and students, we will conquer many obstacles together. It is an exciting journey and I am glad you have come along.

I will tell you that trust and respect are paramount in my band. You will not be asked to do things you are unable to do and I will trust you and treat you with respect until such a time that proves you deserve different.



“It is an exciting journey and I am glad you have come along.”

Knowing this, I begin by asking you possibly the most difficult of requests. Resist the temptation to get out your instrument and play it until we have completed your first lessons. These lessons focus on instrument care, maintenance and handling, proper assembly, sound production, and breathing techniques. You did not learn how to read before learning how to understand the letters and handling the books did you?

The fastest way to begin playing your instrument is to demonstrate your abilities and interests in band. Be on time to your practices. Be prepared for your classes. Be responsible in your homeroom. Your first priority is to do well in school. The skills acquired in band have proven to assist people doing that and more. Band is however, not an excuse to miss math or reading.

If you have band, you are expected to have your instrument and participate in class. In the beginning, you are graded largely on your attendance and effort. Simply show up and do your best and you will do well. Also, if you are in band, you will be asked to continue band through at least twelve concerts. Learning how to play is one thing. Performing for an audience is an entirely different set of circumstances. Quitting too soon is unfair to you and to your fellow musicians. Thank you for joining!